

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action having a mailing date of August 10, 2005. Claims 1, 12, 82-101, 121-134, and 142-160 are pending in the present Application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 12, 121, 143-144, 154, and 156-160. Applicant has also canceled claim 83, 93, 122, 146, and 155. Consequently, claims 1, 12, 82, 84-92, 94-101, 121, 123-134, 142-145, 147-154, and 156-160 remain pending in the present Application.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 12, 121, 144, and 154 to incorporate the limitations of claims 83, 93, 122, 146, and 155, respectively. Applicant has, therefore, canceled claims 83, 93, 122, 146, and 155. Applicant has also amended claims 143 to correct a minor error, replacing the term “magnetically soft layer” with the term pole-tip. Applicant has also amended claims 156-160 to correct a minor error. Claims 156-160 depend upon independent claim 144, which recites a disk drive. Claims 156-160 previously recited a “transducer”. Consequently, Applicant has replaced the term transducer with the term “disk drive” in claims 156-160. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added and no new search is required.

This application is under Final Rejection. Applicant has presented arguments hereinbelow that Applicant believes should render the claims allowable. In the event, however, that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicant’s arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the Amendment to clarify issues upon appeal.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 83, 93, 122, 146, and 155 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to be in independent form, incorporating the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant welcomes the Examiner’s indication that claims 83, 93, 122, 146, and 155 contain allowable subject matter.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 143 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner noted that the “trailing magnetically soft layer” lacked proper antecedent basis.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant has amended claim 143 to recite a “trailing pole-tip” in lieu of the trailing magnetically soft layer. The term “trailing pole-tip” has proper antecedent basis. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 143 is clear and definite.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 12, 82, 84-92, 94-101, 121, 123-127, 142-145, 147-154, and 156-160 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,583,954 (Sasaki).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s rejection. Applicant has amended claims 1, 12, 121, 144, and 154 to incorporate the limitations of claims 83, 93, 122, 146, and 155, respectively. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 12, 121, 144, and 154 are allowable as currently presented.

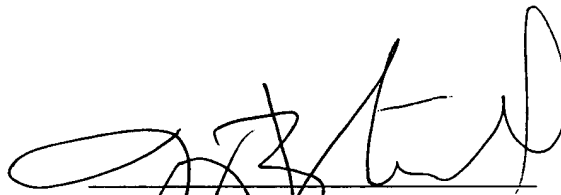
Claims 82, 84-90, and 142 depend upon independent claim 1. Claims 91-92 and 94-101 depend upon independent claim 12. Claims 123-127 and 143 depend upon independent claim 121. Claims 145 and 147-153 depend upon independent claim 144. Claims 156-160 depend upon independent claim 154. Consequently, the arguments herein apply with full force to claims 82, 84-90, 91-92, 94-101, 123-127, 142-143, 145, 147-153, and 156-160. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 82, 84-92, 94-101, 123-127, 142-143, 145, 147-153, and 156-160 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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